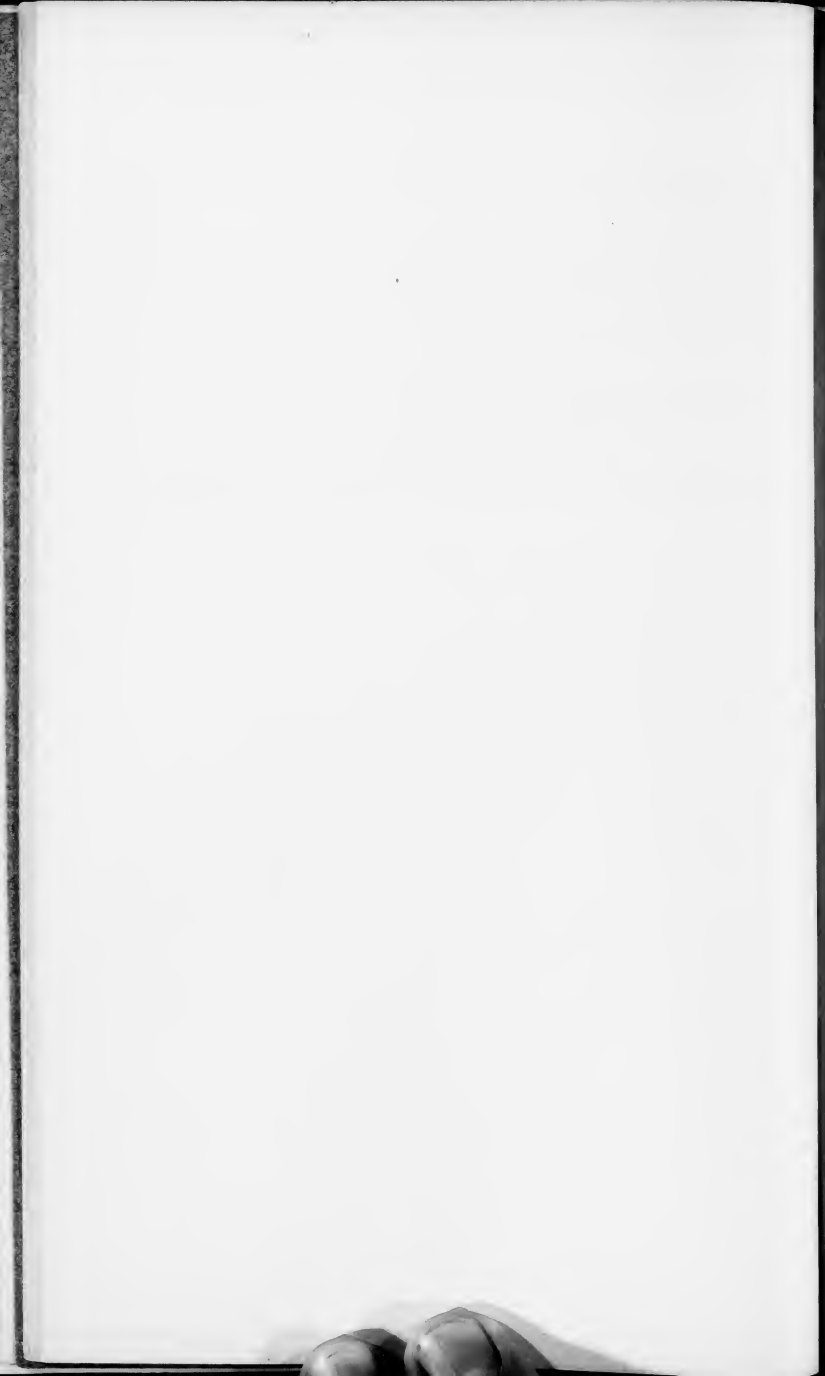




ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT *of* PLAYGROUNDS
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1922

MRS. SUSIE ROOT RHODES - - - - Supervisor



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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WASHINGTON, D. C., *October 1, 1922.*

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA :

The supervisor herewith presents her seventh report, which is the Eleventh Annual Report of the Department of Playgrounds.

This report covers the period from July 1, 1921, to June 30, 1922.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *September 1, 1922.*

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

GENTLEMEN: The past year has been one of increased activity, sustained interest, and marked achievement. Public, semipublic, and private agencies throughout the city have shared with the department of playgrounds its daily widening of field activity.

The increasing needs of the community, with inadequate appropriations to meet the demands, has impelled the public press to appeal continually for additional play space for the Capital City's child. Civic organizations and commercial bodies have urged increased play opportunities. Practically every child-welfare organization, either preventive or corrective, has joined in the crusade for more playgrounds in the Nation's capital.

It is interesting to note in reviewing the playground movement in the District of Columbia that we have been struggling with the playground problem now for 20 years, and yet a total of less than 40 acres out of the 44,000 acres of land in the city are devoted to supervised play; not more than 20 acres of the grounds so used are owned by the District government; 12 acres of the grounds used as playgrounds are loaned by the Federal Government out of the 2,470 acres of parks in the District, and only 1 of the 257 small reservations is used for supervised play under the control of the commissioners.

The playground means health and happiness to the children, and while we have some good grounds, it is still true that there are thousands of children in Washington growing up with the streets as their only place to play. Yet we all agree that the street is the most dangerous spot, from every angle, to the little child. Streets and alleys do not turn out the best product of citizenship. We are losing from time to time our well-established and well-attended playgrounds that have been loaned to us through the courtesy of the owner. The time has come for the establishment of permanent playgrounds in Washington.

What has been lost in the Nation's Capital through the lack of permanent play spaces for its children and youth through these years can not be measured. The playground performs the function of the sanitarium without its cost, and in a large measure obviates the necessity for the hospital. The economic value of playgrounds has been recognized; the money spent on keeping boys off the street will save future great expenditures for police and corrective institutions. The gang spirit is capable of enlistment for betterment in endless useful ways. The recent study of juvenile court records made by the children's bureau shows the percentage of delinquency among children of school age of five cities, with Washington having the highest proportion.

Now with 25 municipal playgrounds in operation and the 22 school playgrounds that we have operated this summer we may expect the percentage of juvenile delinquency for Washington for the year 1922 to be materially decreased, since the opening of playgrounds everywhere has been followed by a decrease of juvenile delinquency in that neighborhood.

In recording the achievement of the past year, interest centers about this recommendation made in the Tenth Annual Report of the Department of Playgrounds—that school playgrounds be under the supervision of the municipal playground department during the summer vacation and days when school is not in session.

The Congress of the United States expressed its confidence in the Department of Municipal Playgrounds, approved the recommendation, and appropriated \$10,000 to carry it out.

As soon as the appropriation was made requests to open school grounds came from every section of the city. Communications flooded the mail. Social workers' committees from school organizations, civic bodies, parents, crowded the office to urge the opening of some playground. In view of this situation we had to adopt the part-time system on many grounds to even partially satisfy the popular city-wide demand for school playgrounds.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the extension of school playgrounds is in a large measure the outgrowth of the initial movement of last summer. The result of Commissioner Oyster's appeal for funds.

Interest in the public playgrounds of the Nation's Capital has spread throughout our country and even into foreign lands. Playground and recreation workers from the States have come to observe the local system. Students of the playground movement entered our training class. Resident officials of foreign governments, after close observation of our playgrounds, have requested specific details of organization, operation, equipment, maintenance, and supervision.

Franklin K. Lane, who lived and worked among us, said, "America is of but one people, gathered from many countries, each has his gift—Irish lad and Scot, Englishman and Dutch, Italian, Greek, and French, Spaniard, Slav, Teuton, Norse, Negro—all have come bearing gifts and have laid them on the altar of America. All brought their music, all brought their poetry, all brought their art and handcraft, all brought stout hearts to drive live minds, and live minds to direct willing hands."

These are the gifts they bring each day to the great mixing bowls in our city—the public playgrounds. The public playgrounds, where the children of different nationalities come together to have one interest, where success depends upon the ability to work with others, where games and the other activities are merely tools to secure fundamental results.

The child's natural desire for occupational play and industrial recreation is satisfied on the playground. The social education inherent in group games, but quite lacking in formal gymnastics, has been introduced into our system through mass play games, which displace the individualistic aim in play and provide the teamwork essential in actual life.

During the year 1922 the attendance on municipal playgrounds in the city totaled 2,994,686. The increase is marked. This gain in

attendance is due partially to increased facilities, but primarily to the fact that playground activities appeal to child interests more intimately than do any counterattractions.

During the past year 247,749 boys played baseball and 45,182 boys played soccer ball. Girls have developed a keen interest and much skill in highly organized games: 97,958 girls played basket ball, and 122,786 girls played schlag ball on our grounds; 67,140 persons played tennis; 28,884 used our swimming pools. The records show that 86,874 worked during the kindergarten hour; 149,913 enjoyed folk songs and dances; 138,999 listened to the story telling or read favorite tales of fancy, adventure, or invention; 10,000 children played games not listed and enjoyed athletic sports.

Our city is keenly alive to the advantages of the supervised playground, where an opportunity to learn a variety of things useful at occupational play and industrial recreation is given each child, where the spirit of play—the free and unrestrained spirit of the American child—is never lost even in the most engrossing tasks.

A broad social vision, the spirit of community service, dominates the public playground. Coequal and coordinate with the public school, the public playground has become an integral part of our national life in the development of our citizenry. Habits of justice, obedience, industry, loyalty, and cooperation are developed. The spirit of play encourages self-reliance and develops initiative in the backward child. Strict adherence to the rules of the games fosters respect for law. Civic pride and a regard for property rights are other invaluable outgrowth of the public playgrounds.

With a single purpose in view—the good of the child—every constructive force in our Capital has worked to help us put across the "play spirit." The greatest lessons in life little people learn through organized play.

List of municipal playgrounds.

WHITE.

Name.	Location.	How acquired.	Acreage.	Remarks.
Bloomington	1st and Bryant Sts. NW	Loaned	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Cooke School	17th St. and Columbia Road NW	do.		
Coreoran	28th and M Sts. NW	do.		
Gallinger	F St. NW., between 21st and 22d Sts.	do.	$\frac{3}{4}$	
Garfield	2d and F Sts. SE	do.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Georgetown	33d and Volta Place NW	Owned	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Happy Hollow	18th St. and Kalorama Road NW	Loaned	1	
Hoover	2d and N Sts. SW	do.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Iowa Avenue	13th St. and Iowa Ave. NW	do.		Opened Apr. 15, 1922.
Mackin	V St. NW., between 14th and 15th Sts.	do.	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Mades	8th and L Sts. NE	do.	$\frac{1}{2}$	Closed Dec. 31, 1921.
Merritt Field	1 St. NE., between 3d and 4th Sts.	do.		Baseball field only.
Mitchell Park	23d and S Sts. NW	Owned	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Montrose Park	Lover's Lane and R Sts. NW	Loaned		Opened Apr. 15, 1922.
New Hampshire Avenue	New Hampshire Ave., between L and M Sts. NW	do.	$\frac{1}{2}$	
New York Avenue	1st St. and New York Ave. NW	Owned	1	
Park View	Warder and Otis Sts. NW	do.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Rosedale	17th and Kramer Sts. NE	do.	5	
Schott's	1st, 2d, B, and C Sts. NE	Loaned		
Thomson	12th and L Sts. NW	do.		
Twin Oaks	14th and Taylor Sts. NW	Owned	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Terminal	2d and G Sts. NE	Loaned	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Trinity	3d and C Sts. NW	do.		
Virginia Avenue	10th St. and Virginia Ave. SE	Owned	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Women's National Foundation	Connecticut and Florida avenues NW	Loaned	$\frac{1}{2}$	Closed April, 1922.

List of municipal playgrounds—Continued.

COLORED.

Name.	Location.	How acquired.	Area.	Remarks.
Cardozo.....	1st and I Sts. SW.....	Owned..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Howard.....	5th and W Sts. NW.....	Loaned..	3	
Logan.....	3d and G Sts. NE.....	Owned..	$\frac{1}{2}$	
Phillips.....	27th and N Sts. NW.....	..do.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	Opened Mar. 1, 1922.
Rose Park.....	27th and O Sts. NW.....	..do.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	Closed Dec. 31, 1921.
Willow Tree.....	3d, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$, B, and C Sts. SW.....	..do.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Schools opened as playgrounds during the summer of 1922.

Arthur.....	Arthur Place, between B St. and Indiana Ave. NW.
Bowen.....	3d and K Sts. SW.
Bryan.....	13th and B Sts. SW.
Brookland.....	Monroe and 10th Sts. NE.
Cooke.....	17th and Euclid Sts. NW.
Corcoran.....	28th and M Sts. NW.
Eaton.....	34th and Lowell Sts. NW.
Emery.....	Lincoln Ave. and Prospect St. NE.
Fairbrother.....	10th and E Sts. SW.
Henry-Polk.....	7th and O Sts. NW.
Jefferson.....	6th and D Sts. SW.
Powell.....	Hiatt Place and Park Road NW.
Thomson.....	12th and L Sts. NW.
Wallach.....	7th and D Sts. SE.
Briggs.....	22d and E Sts. NW.
Bruce.....	Kenyon St., between Georgia and Sherman Aves.
Birney.....	Nicholas Ave., Hillsdale.
Giddings.....	G St., between 3 and 4th Sts. SE.
Lovejoy.....	12th and D Sts. NE.
Langston.....	P St., between North Capitol and 1st St. NW.
Magruder.....	M St., between 16th and 17th Sts. NW.
Phillips.....	27th and N Sts. NW.

ATHLETIC RULES.

MEMBERSHIP.

Athletic contests conducted by the Department of Playgrounds shall be open to all regularly enrolled pupils of the public schools who comply with the rules of the department governing the same.

ELIGIBILITY.

1. Only those pupils who maintain a grade of scholarship which will entitle them to promotion (if continued without improvement) shall be entitled to represent the schools in athletics.

2. No pupil under penalty of discipline in his school shall be eligible to represent such school, the principal of the school to be the sole judge concerning this.

3. No elementary-school pupil coming from another school shall represent the school unless he has attended the school for 20 days, except—

(a) He has been promoted from one school to another.

(b) He has been transferred from one school to another by order of the supervising principal.

(c) He has been transferred on account of change in residence.

(d) He has been admitted from a school outside of the public-school system of the District of Columbia.

4. In order to be eligible for athletics pupils must receive for the months previous a mark of at least "Fair" in effort, proficiency, and deportment.

5. Spiked shoes are not allowed in any athletic competition.

6. No entry shall be accepted unless countersigned by the principal of the school.

The athletics of the grammar grades of the public schools of the District of Columbia are played off on the municipal playgrounds, where teams representing the schools in baseball and soccer ball for boys and basket ball and schlag for girls play for the division and city championship. These games are carefully supervised by the playground director. All athletic goods are furnished by the municipal playground department. High standards of sportsmanship are maintained.

REGISTRATION.

1. Each school that is represented by a team must fill out the various blanks and send one to the director of the playgrounds where the tournament is to be held.

2. Not more than 25 names can be registered from any one school, except in group schools where there are more than one seventh or eighth grades, in which case a school may be represented by two teams.

3. A new name may be added to the list after it has been sent in, but the person whose name has been added shall not be eligible to play until at least three full days after the official notice has been given, and the total number of names shall not exceed 25.

4. Names may be dropped from the registered list at any time, but the director must be at once notified of such action.

SCHEDULE.

1. A copy of the schedule will be sent to the principal of the school and to the manager of the team.

2. All games must be played on the date and at the time scheduled unless the condition of the grounds or the weather prohibit it. The director of the playground shall make the decision.

3. Failure of any team to appear for its game at the time scheduled will forfeit the game to the opposing team.

4. Failure of both teams to appear at the scheduled time will result in the game being declared a tie game, score 0-0, and a loss to both.

5. All teams will be notified of the dates and time of all postponed games.

6. We endeavor to supplement the school by guiding and supervising the leisure time of the pupils.

SUMMER BASEBALL, 1921.

Unusual interest was shown in summer baseball, the number of teams and the lists of boys eligible to play were large. The junior league for boys under 16 years of age was composed of 15 teams, 8 representing the western section of the city, while the eastern division was made up of 7 teams.

A regular schedule of games was played, one in each division, each day with the exception of Saturday, on which day the majority of the boys playing on the various teams were otherwise employed.

These games were under the supervision of the municipal playground department. The popularity of this league was attested to by the fact that although the schedule was a long one, few games were forfeited, even though toward the end of the season some of the teams had no possible chance for the coveted trophy.

At the close of the schedule the teams representing the Mackin and City Park playgrounds in the western division were tie for the championship. In the play-off which followed, the Mackin boys proved too much for the lads from the Seventh Street recreation center, and hence gained the right to battle for the District championship.

In the eastern division Mades had a remarkable record, going through the entire summer without the loss of a game.

A series of three games was then arranged to decide the playground championship. These games were hard fought, and the boys displayed true sportsmanship in each contest. Each team won one game on their home grounds, and on neutral grounds the Mackin boys captured the third and deciding game by a score of 4-3.

Several of the playground centers had their own individual leagues, composed of boys who were regular patrons on their respective grounds. These games were played in the evening and were very interesting, both for spectators and players, as all the players were from the immediate vicinity.

On the larger grounds, where regulation baseball is permitted, the boys and young men who are employed during the day can be found each evening indulging in their favorite pastime.

SPRING ATHLETIC MEET.

The sixth annual field and track meet of the elementary schools of the District, under the direction of the municipal playground department, was held in June at the Central High School stadium.

The seven divisions had previously held their individual meets, one day being allotted to each center to run off these events. At these gatherings the same classes and events are contested as in the big city meet. All those winning first, second, and third places are entitled to gold, silver, and bronze buttons and are also eligible to compete in the annual affair. The events are divided into four classes—85-pound, 100-pound, 115-pound, and unlimited, and in each class are dash, running high, running broad, running hop-step-jump, and relay.

The city meet was well handled and the competition was close, most of the events being won by a scant margin. The playground department was fortunate in having very competent officials, who performed the various duties assigned them in a most efficient manner; among these were men who stand high in the athletic life of the District.

The lads from the Ross School, Columbia Heights division, proved themselves far superior to the young athletes from the other 50 schools, winning with a total score of 66 points. Cooke and Monroe were their nearest competitors, each scoring 22 points.

The winners of first, second, and third places were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals; the Ross School also receives a silver loving cup from the playground department, which becomes its permanent property, having been won three consecutive years. They are also entitled to retain possession of a handsome silver loving cup donated by the "C" Club, an organization made up of former Central High School athletes. This cup was won by the same school last year and will also become its property with one more victory.

The following schools were point winners:

Ross	66	E. V. Brown	6
Monroe	22	Peabody	6
Cooke	22	Gage	4
Carbery	11	Hilton	4
Maury	10	Abbot	2
Webb	10	Brookland	1
Adams	7	Wheatley	1
West	6	Force	1

ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL BASEBALL.

Great interest was shown in baseball by the many teams from the elementary schools during the past season. More schools were represented, and keen competition was shown throughout the entire schedule. Regardless of the fact that some of the schools are located a long distance from the division centers where the games were played, invariably the teams were on hand when the game was scheduled to start.

After the championship of each of the seven divisions had been determined, the winners were then divided into the eastern and western divisions. The boys from the Cooke School disposed of the Corcoran, Cleveland, and Henry-Polk aggregations, while the Buchanan team, in the eastern division, defeated the Pierce and Jefferson nines.

In a series of these games the Buchanan lads triumphed over the Cooke School in closely contested games, thereby winning the District championship. They are also entitled to become the possessors of a silver loving cup for the ensuing year. This trophy must be won three successive times before becoming the permanent property of any school.

The following is the number of teams and the championship team of each division:

Playground.	Number of schools.	Number of boys.	Championship.	Playground.	Number of schools.	Number of boys.	Championship.
Rosedale.....	15	326	Pierce.	Virginia Avenue.....	9	217	Buchanan.
Bloomington.....	8	177	Cleveland.	Garfield Park.....	7	131	Jefferson.
New York Avenue..	9	183	Henry-Polk.				
Georgetown.....	12	278	Corcoran.	Total.....	71	1,554	
Columbia Heights...	11	242	Cooke.				

Division baseball trophies.

Playground.	1916	1917	1918
Bloomington.....	Gage.....	Gage.....	Cleveland.
Columbia Heights...	Monroe.....	Monroe.....	Park View.
Garfield Park.....	Dent.....	Brent.....	Jefferson.
Georgetown.....	Industrial Home	Industrial Home	Addison.
New York Avenue..	Henry-Polk.....	Henry-Polk.....	Twining.
Rosedale.....	Carlory-Pierce.	Wheatley.....	Pierce.
Virginia Avenue...	Wallach.....	Buchanan.....	Wallach.

Playground.	1919	1920	1921	1922
Bloomington.....	Gage.....	Emery.....	Gage.....	Cleveland.
Columbia Heights...	Johnson.....	Park View.....	Cooke.....	Cooke.
Garfield Park.....	Brent.....	Jefferson.....	Hyde.....	Jefferson.
Georgetown.....	Industrial Home	Industrial Home	Henry-Polk.....	Corcoran.
New York Avenue..	Henry-Polk.....	Henry-Polk.....	Maury.....	Pierce.
Rosedale.....	Blair.....	Pierce.....	Wallach.....	Buchanan.
Virginia Avenue...	Cranch.....	Wallach.....		

City championship—Industrial Home, 1916 and 1917; Park View, 1918; Henry-Polk, 1919; Pierce, 1920; Hyde, 1921; Buchanan, 1922.

Spring-meet division trophies.

Playground.	1916	1917	1918
Bloomingtondale.....	Takoma	Brookland.....	Brookland.
Gallinger.....	Force	Force.....	Hilton.
Garfield Park.....	Hilton	Hilton.....	Industrial Home.
Georgetown.....	Industrial Home.....	Industrial Home.....	Ross.
Columbia Heights.....	Ross.....	Ross.....	Blake.
New York Avenue.....	Henry-Polk.....	Henry-Polk.....	Carbery.
Rosedale.....	Carbery.....	Carbery.....	Wallach.
Virginia Avenue.....	Bryan.....	Wallach.....	

Playground.	1919	1920	1921	1922
Bloomingtondale.....	Gage.....	Emery.....	Emery.....	Brookland.
Garfield Park.....	Hilton.....	Hilton.....	Hilton.....	Peabody.
Georgetown.....	Adams.....	Jackson.....	Adams.....	Adams.
Columbia Heights.....	Ross.....	Ross.....	Ross.....	Ross.
New York Avenue.....	Henry-Polk.....	Thomson.....	Henry-Polk.....	Henry-Polk.
Rosedale.....	Carbery.....	Carbery.....	Carbery.....	Maury.
Virginia Avenue.....	Cranch.....	Wallach.....	Wallach.....	Wallach.

City-meet trophies—Ross, 1916, 1917, and 1918; Ross tied West, 1919; Ross, 1920; Ross, 1921; Ross, 1922.

SOCCER 1921.

No sport has made such rapid progress during recent years as soccer football.

It is a manly sport played in a manly way. Not only has the game developed in popularity, but the skill of the school player has grown. High schools and colleges have taken up the game, until now it is considered with baseball, basket ball, and football—a real major sport.

The past season was a most successful one in the elementary school league. Sixty-six schools were represented by 1,500 boys.

A regular schedule of games was played in each division, and after the various champions had been determined the league was divided into two districts, the eastern and western districts.

The Pierce team of the Rosedale division in the eastern section triumphed over the Brent school of the Garfield division and Lenox school of the Virginia Avenue division, while Monroe team of the Columbia Heights division disposed of Abbot of the New York Avenue, Emery of the Bloomingtondale, and Addison of the Georgetown playground division.

The following shows the number of schools and the number of boys engaged in the school leagues.

Playground.	No. of schools.	No. of boys.	Champion teams.	Playground.	No. of schools.	No. of boys.	Champion teams.
Bloomingtondale.....	9	188	Emery.	Columbia Heights.....	8	181	Monroe.
Georgetown.....	8	181	Abbot.	Rosedale.....	11	249	Pierce.
Garfield Park.....	13	295	Addison.				
Virginia Avenue.....	7	168	Brent.	Total.....	66	1,498	
	10	236	Lenox.				

Division soccer-ball trophies.

Playgrounds.	1915	1916	1917
Bloomingdale.....	Brookland.....	Emery.....	Emery.
Columbia Heights.....	Monroe.....	Monroe.....	Monroe.
Gallinger.....	Grant.....	Grant.....	Grant.
Garfield Park.....	Dent.....	Brent.....	Brent.
Georgetown.....	Hyde.....	Addison.....	Corcoran.
New York Avenue.....	Blake.....	Gales.....	Seaton.
Rosedale.....	Pierce.....	Carbery.....	Pierce.
Virginia Avenue.....	Lenox.....	Cranch.....	Wallach.

Playgrounds.	1918	1919	1920	1921
Bloomingdale.....	Emery.....	Emery.....	Gage.....	Emery.
Columbia Heights.....	Monroe.....	Monroe.....	Monroe.....	Monroe.
Garfield Park.....	Hilton.....	Brent.....	Brent.....	Brent.
Georgetown.....	Hyde.....	Curtis.....	Curtis.....	Addison.
New York Avenue.....	Thomson.....	Abbott.....	Abbott.....	Abbott.
Rosedale.....	Wheatley.....	Pierce.....	Pierce.....	Pierce.
Virginia Avenue.....	Wallach.....	Wallach.....	Lenox.....	Lenox.

City championship.—Hyde, 1915; Addison, 1916; Wallach, 1917; Hyde, 1918; Wallach, 1919; Pierce, 1920; Monroe, 1921.

BASEBALL ON COLORED GROUNDS.

Baseball on the colored grounds retains the same popularity it has in former years. In the early spring the boys from the various playgrounds had regular scheduled games, and much interest was manifested by spectators, as well as players, in these contests. As the season advanced the older boys and young men formed a league on the Cardozo, Willow Tree, and Howard playgrounds and played many exciting and closely contested games. The article of baseball displayed by the players of the different teams compares favorably with the best independent clubs of the District.

GIRLS SCHLAG LEAGUE ON COLORED GROUNDS.

The girls showed a great deal of interest in the schlag-ball league organized for the first time last year in the colored schools. This year they lost none of the enthusiasm.

Mott School won in the Howard division; Montgomery School won in the Phillips division; Jones School won in the Logan division.

BASKET-BALL LEAGUES, 1921.

With the first breath of invigorating fresh air, comes the cry of girls for basket ball. To meet this demand, the Municipal Playground Department has, since 1915, organized playground-division basket-ball leagues for the girls of the elementary schools.

There are seven playground divisions, each of which operate a basket-ball league, as shown by the table below:

Playground.	Number of schools.	Number of girls.	Champion division.	Playground.	Number of schools.	Number of girls.	Champion division.
Bloomingdale.....	10	169	Gage.	Rosedale.....	13	250	Kenilworth.
Garfield.....	6	108	Dent.	Virginia Avenue.....	10	232	Wallach.
Georgetown.....	12	236	Corcoran.				
Columbia Heights.....	12	257	Ross.	Total.....	71	1,448	
New York Avenue.....	8	196	Twining.				

INDOOR MEET, 1922.

The sixth annual indoor meet for the various playgrounds was held at the Y. M. C. A. in early April.

The events were divided into four classes—namely, 85-pound, 100-pound, 115-pound, and unlimited—with dashes, running high jump, running broad jump, and relay in each class.

On account of the large number of entrants the meet was held on three different evenings. The preliminaries were held in the boys' department of the Y. M. C. A. and the finals in the large gymnasium. The boys had the privilege of practicing on the track and floor of the gymnasium. For a month previous to the meet the lads availed themselves of this opportunity by turning out in large numbers in order to familiarize themselves with the surroundings. Much interest was shown by both contestants and spectators, and the records show some very clever work both in the dashes and in the jumps.

The entries numbered 643, representing 15 grounds.

The boys from the Park View playground easily walked away from all opponents, winning by a wide margin: Rosedale, second; and Gallinger, third.

The winning team was presented with a silver loving cup, donated by the Y. M. C. A., which must be won three times before becoming the permanent property of any playground.

The following is a list of point winners and the number of entries:

Playground.	Number of entries.	Number of points.	Playground.	Number of entries.	Number of points.
Park View.....	62	59½	Thomson.....	28	4½
Rosedale.....	56	23	New Hampshire.....	38	4
Gallinger.....	65	16	Georgetown.....	56	3
New York Avenue.....	46	11	Virginia Avenue.....	60	1
Woman's National Foundation.....	18	7	Happy Hollow.....	29	0
Hoover.....	68	5	Mackin.....	12	0
Garfield Park.....	59	5	Mitchell Park.....	8	0
Cooke.....	38	5	Total.....	643	144

BRONZE-BUTTON TEST FOR GIRLS.

1. *Goal throwing* (two out of six trials).—Using the goal as a center, draw a semicircle with a radius of 15 feet. Contestants shall stand outside the line and must make two out of six goals.

2. *Balancing*.—Walk 24 feet, lifting knees high. Contestants may have two trials. Execute one original to be judged by the director.

3. *Folk dancing*.—Any of the following dances: Ace of Diamonds, Irish Lilt, Bleking, I See You, Klap Dans, Crested Hen, Virginia Reel, Carrousel, Gustaf's Skol. The contestants must pass in memory and spirit (abandon, enthusiasm, amplitude of movement).

4. *Races*.—Run a potato race in 42 seconds or an all-up Indian club race in 30 seconds.

5. *Hiking*.—One hike a month for three months. The distance must not be less than 2 or more than 5 miles. No hike counts unless accompanied by a director or some one authorized by her.

6. *Swimming*.—Dive or jump in and swim 15 feet.

Select any four for playground bronze button.

SILVER-BUTTON TEST FOR GIRLS.

1. *Goal throwing*.—Throw a basket ball into its goal four out of six times.

2. Play through a schedule of at least eight games with an organized team in any of the following: Schlag, basket ball, volley ball, baseball.

3. *Folk dancing*.—Any three of the following dances not used in the first test: Crested Hen, Ace of Diamonds, Irish Lilt, Virginia Reel, The Hatter, Gathering Peascods, Norwegian Mountain March, Bluff King Hal.

4. *Collecting*.—Make a collection of leaves, flowers, nuts, stones, moss, including at least 25 specimens.

5. *Hiking*.—Two hikes a month (six in all) of not less than 4 miles or more than 6.

6. *Swimming*.—Dive or jump into the deep end, swim a few strokes, turn on back, swim a short distance, turn on face, and finish the length of the pool (80 feet).

Select any four for the silver button.

GOLD-BUTTON TEST FOR GIRLS.

1. *Goal throwing*.—Throw a basket ball into its goal six out of six trials from 15 feet away.

2. *Sportsmanship*.—Play through a series of at least 10 games with an organized team in any of the following: Schlag, basket ball, volley ball, baseball.

3. *Folk dancing*.—Any four of the following dances not previously used: Crested Hen, Ace of Diamonds, Gustaf's Skol, I See You, Virginia Reel.

4. *Leadership*.—Assist with ring games, kindergarten, or free games at least twice a week for a month, averaging at least two hours a week.

5. *Hiking*.—Three hikes a month (nine in all) not less than 4 miles or more than 10. Each girl must plan one hike, including route, supper, and games.

6. *Swimming*.—Swim out to person supposedly drowning, approach from rear, grasp back of suit or hair, and swim remaining length.

Select any four for the playground gold button.

BRONZE-BUTTON TEST FOR BOYS.

1. *Goal throwing* (three in six trials).—Using the goal as a center, draw a semicircle with a radius of 15 feet. Contestants stand outside the line and must make three out of six goals.

2. *Dash*.—Sixty-yard dash, 8½ seconds.

3. *Hop, step, and leap*.—In the hop, step, and leap the boy takes a running start, then springs from his right foot, landing on his right (hop), then on his left (step), then on both (leap); cover 22 feet.

4. Pull up and chin himself four times.

5. *Hiking*.—One hike a month for three months, the distance not to be less than 3 miles. No hike will be recorded except in a group accompanied by the director or some one authorized by him.

6. *Swimming*.—Dive or jump in; swim 30 feet.

SILVER-BUTTON TEST FOR BOYS.

1. *Collecting*.—Make a collection of leaves, nuts, flowers, grass, stamps, stones, or moss, including at least 25 specimens, all to be labeled.

2. *Dash*.—Fifty yards in 8 seconds.

3. *Hop, step, and leap*.—Cover at least 25 feet. In the hop, step, and leap a boy takes a running start, then springs from his right foot, landing on his right (hop), then on his left (step), then on both (leap).

4. Pull up and chin himself six times.

5. *Hiking*.—Two hikes a month (six in all) of not less than 4 miles or more than 6.

6. *Swimming*.—Dive or jump into the deep end, swim a few strokes, turn on back, swim a short distance, turn on face, and finish the length of the pool (80 feet).

GOLD-BUTTON TEST FOR BOYS.

1. *Sportsmanship*.—Play through a schedule of at least 10 games with an organized team in any of the following: Baseball, volley ball, soccer, schlag, basket ball.

2. *Dash*.—One hundred yards in 14 seconds.

3. *Hop, step, and leap*.—Standing on a starting line, hop forward on right foot, then swing left foot forward (in a step), and then leap forward with both feet; cover 28 feet.

4. Pull himself up and chin eight times.
5. *Hiking*.—Three hikes a month (nine in all) of not less than 6 miles.
6. *Swimming*.—Swim out to a person supposedly drowning, approach from rear, grasp by the back of suit or hair, and swim remaining length.

SCHLAG-BALL LEAGUES, 1922.

Schlag ball is the game played by the girls in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades of the public schools conducted by the Playground Department and proves more successful each year as more schools enter the league.

This was the sixth season, and the officials are well satisfied that it is the future spring game for girls, as the chart below shows an increase of four schools, making a total of 68.

Playground division.	Number of schools.	Number of girls.	Division champions.	Playground division.	Number of schools.	Number of girls.	Division champions.
Bloomingsdale.....	7	135	Langdon.	Rosedale.....	15	315	Kenilworth.
Columbia Heights...	12	270	Petworth.	Virginia Avenue...	8	196	Wallach.
Garfield.....	5	115	Hilton.				
Georgetown.....	12	263	Jackson.	Total.....	68	1,462	
New York Avenue..	9	168	Henry-Polk.				

MARBLE TOURNAMENT.

A marble contest to determine a Washington champion was held on the various playgrounds during the month of April. Nearly 1,500 patrons under 16 years of age competed.

The game played was that called "Fats," in which a winner is chosen from a group by eliminating all other contestants. The players were divided on each ground in groups of six; the winners of each group were afterwards divided in like manner; finally developing a playground champion, who competed in the semifinals and finals. Michael Troiano, 15, of Cooke School playground, won the District honors.

Annie Topley, a young miss from the Georgetown playground, won the championship of her division, eliminating nearly 100 boys, but was herself defeated in the semifinals.

Officially, the playground marble season closed then; but great interest was manifested in the champion's trip to Jersey City, N. J., to play Charles Rech, who had previously won the title of champion in that section. Rech easily defeated the pride of the District.

Later, Troiano won over Dick Barnes, eastern Virginia champion.

INDUSTRIAL WORK.

All children are interested in handwork, especially when presented by an enthusiastic director as a summer sport rather than work. Competition must be the keynote in this form of occupational play, with the competitors aiming to design the most intricate pattern, combine the most attractive colors, construct the most perfect product, or be first to finish the work.

The directors make an effort to have the development of the industrial arts a minor consideration, not the major part of the summer program.

During the past summer many children worked industriously making baskets, beads, rag rugs, and pieces of art needlework. Several hundred articles were completed during July, August, and September on the 44 playgrounds operated under the supervision of the municipal department; 22 of these were in school yards.

Exhibitions were held on each ground at the close of the season. The interest of the community in the welfare of the children was fully demonstrated by the large attendance of parents and friends.

FESTIVALS.

Special attention has been given this branch of playground work. Each season brings its own particular need along this interesting line of recreation.

The children look forward to springtime and May day from the opening of the grounds in March. They delight in the preparations for the lawn party in August, while joy is unbounded when the Halloween goblin frolic is mentioned, and with the first cold days of winter, Christmas and the Christmas party is the main topic.

All through the year the directors arranged many novel events for the patrons of the municipal playgrounds—baby shows, kite-flying contests, doll parties, character parties, patriotic celebrations, beauty contests, pet shows, kiddy-car days, and soap-bubble blows.

In most instances the children were allowed unlimited freedom in planning and carrying through their ideas, and remarkable executive ability was developed.

STORY TELLING.

Story telling is one way of entertaining the little mothers that come on the grounds. Girls and boys with little baby brother or sister can not do much else but listen to stories.

We are fortunate in having competent story tellers on our grounds. Stories well told increase the attention of the child and so the power of concentration. They must be told and not read aloud because the story teller is free to watch the changing moods of the children and can better use facial expression and gestures to help in expressing the meaning.

PICNICS.

It has been the policy of the department to aid any organized outing, and the past year the supervisor, with the aid of her assistants, was able to extend the work. During the summer the department furnished equipment and directors for Sunday-school picnics and fraternal organizations. The department feels that much good may be accomplished this way, and is planning to extend this work as much as possible during the next season.

PLAYGROUND SWIMMING POOLS.

One of the most important and interesting features of recreation are the swimming pools located at Georgetown, Thirty-third and Volta Streets NW.; Rosedale, Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE.;

and Howard, Fifth and W Streets NW. Instruction classes were held each morning and afternoon at the pools, and adults as well as children took advantage of these swimming classes.

The pools were opened June 15 and closed September 25, keeping open from 9 in the morning until 6 in the evening each day. A life guard and swimming teacher were always in attendance. The pools are emptied and scrubbed each night. A marked increase in attendance has been noted, and many persons learned to swim.

	Men and boys.	Women and girls.	Total.
Georgetown.....	5,984	3,174	9,158
Rosedale.....	5,970	3,082	9,052
Howard.....	7,687	2,987	10,674

REPORT OF BATHING BEACH.

Supt. F. J. Brunner opened the municipal bathing beach at the usual time with a very large attendance from the first day. The attendance in the free elementary classes has exceeded last year's attendance.

REPORT OF THE REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION.

This division takes care of all the repair and construction work on the various playgrounds, as well as the three swimming pools and bathing beach. The summer is devoted to rebuilding and repairing apparatus, and in the winter the force spend their time in the shop making different articles of equipment, such as kindergarten tables and benches, balance beams, incline boards, seesaw boards, baby hammock frames, box-swing chairs, park benches, etc.

With the opening in the spring all the playgrounds were painted and the shelter houses renovated.

During the fiscal year the following playgrounds were opened:

Woman's National Foundation (Connecticut Avenue and Florida Avenue NW.).—Four acres. This piece of ground was loaned us by the Woman's National Foundation. It was equipped with baby swings, sand boxes, small slides, basket-ball goals, and shelter house.

Phillips School (Twenty-eighth and N Streets NW.).—This ground is in a school yard and was equipped with swings, seesaws, baseball diamond, and shelter house.

Iowa Avenue (Thirteenth Street and Iowa Avenue NW.), was loaned us until such time as it shall be needed for building the MacFarland Junior High School. Very little apparatus was placed on this ground, as we did not know how long we would be able to use it.

Montrose Park, Lovers' Lane and R Streets NW., was loaned the department by the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds. It is a small portion of Montrose Park. It is equipped

with swings, sand box, slides, baseball diamond, and chinning bar. It is directly across the street from the Jackson School and gives ample opportunity for recreation for the children attending this school.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Requests come in frequently from the different sections of the city asking that additional playgrounds be opened. The time has come when the establishment of permanent playgrounds must be advocated.

We have made for more than six years a careful study of all available play spaces in the District. We must plan for a public playground within walking distance of every home in the city, as we have in the past planned for the public schools. Public recreation is recognized as a proper function for public support and necessary for the well-being of the children. They should, therefore, be on land owned or controlled by the city.

It is necessary to have athletic fields for the boys not too far out. Boys ought not to be obliged to pay car fare, but they are able and willing to walk considerable distances to practice fields.

Ball fields for older boys may be still farther out from the centers, in outlying districts on or near car lines. Four at least are needed in the four sections of the city.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

That more Federal reservations be made available for supervised play.

That public playgrounds be established within walking distance of every home in the city.

That additional provision be made for swimming.

That shelter houses be built on all grounds now in operation.

That playgrounds be open and lighted in the evening.

That the shops of the elementary schools be open in summer vacation so the children attending the playgrounds near by may have elementary woodwork and simple carpentry. The repairing of broken furniture and toys would be good occupational play.

That school kitchens be open in summer vacation and near-by playground children be given cooking lessons as an occupational recreation.

That a part of the reservation known as Judiciary Square be transferred by Congress to the control of the District Commissioners to be used for playground purposes. The exact location of the section desired is that part of the square north from E Street extending to F Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets NW.

That the law affecting recreation in the District of Columbia, as follows: "It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to set up or fly any kite, or set up and fly any fire balloon or parachute in or upon or over any street, avenue, alley, open space, public in-

closure, or square within the limits of the cities of Washington or Georgetown, under a penalty of not more than \$10 for each and every such offense," be annulled.

As final, I would suggest that public-spirited citizens might well be reminded by the commissioners that there is no gift that can be made to the city of greater use and enjoyment, with more lasting honor to the name of the donor, than the gift of land for a public playground.

Respectfully submitted.

SUSIE ROOT RHODES,
Supervisor of Playgrounds.

